

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 08793 161612Z

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SUBJECT: IRANIAN GAS FOR AUSTRIA - TRIANGULAR GAS DEAL INVOLVING

IRAN, USSR AND WEST EUROPEAN BUYERS' CONSORTIUM

1. AUSTRIAN OIL ADMINISTRATION (OEMV) OFFICIALS INFORMED EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES THAT A DETAILED AGREEMENT ON BASIC CONTRACT CONCERNING

TRIANGULAR TRADE DEAL BETWEEN IRAN, USSR AND WEST EUROPEAN BUYERS' CONSORTIUM, CONCLUDED IN APRIL THIS YEAR IN MOSCOW, IS EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED LATER IN OCTOBER 1975. A SUB-CONTRACT WILL STIPULATE PERCENTAGES OF PARTICIPATION BY EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND OTHER CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS.

2. AFTER WITHDRAWAL OF ITALIAN ENI SUBSIDIARY SNAM, BUYERS' CONSORTIUM WILL COMPRISE 3 MEMBERS, I.E. GERMAN RUHRGAS (56 2/3 PERCENT SHARE), GAS DE FRANCE (26 2/3 PERCENT), AND AUSTRIAN OIL
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 08793 161612Z

ADMINISTRATION (16 2/3 PERCENT). LEADING UNDERWRITER FOR CON-

SORTIUM IS GERMAN RUHRGAS.

3. BASIC CONTRACT BETWEEN RUHRGAS, IRANIAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND SOYUZNEFTEEKSPORT, PROVIDES FOR EXPORTATION TO USSR OF 13 BILLION CUBIC METERS P.A. OF IRANIAN NATURAL GAS, AND FOR THE DELIVERY OF 11 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF NATURAL GAS BY THE USSR TO RUHRGAS CONSORTIUM. BALANCE OF 2 BILLION CUBIC METERS WILL BE USED AS FUEL FOR OPERATION OF USSR COMPRESSOR STATIONS.

4. NATURAL GAS DELIVERIES TO CONSORTIUM MEMBERS ARE TO COMMENCE IN 1981 FOR PERIOD OF 20 YEARS. ROUGHLY 9.2 BILLION CUBIC METERS OF GAS DESTINED FOR RUHRGAS AND GAS DE FRANCE WILL ENTER GERMANY NEAR WAIDHAUS, VIA AN ALREADY EXISTING PIPELINE. THE REMAINING QUANTITY OF ABOUT 1.8 BILLION CUBIC METERS IS DESTINED FOR AUSTRIA AND WILL BE PUMPED TO BAUMGARTEN VIA THE COMECON PIPELINE SYSTEM.

5. PRICE PER CUBIC METER OF GAS TO BE PAID BY CONSORTIUM NOT DISCLOSED, BUT REPORTEDLY TIED IN WITH PRICE INDEX FOR RESIDUAL FUEL, FREE WIESBADEN, WEST GERMANY. OEMV OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT PRICE OF IRANIAN GAS FREE AUSTRIAN BORDER WILL BE EQUAL TO PRICE OF SOVIET GAS IMPORTED BY AUSTRIA UNDER BILATERAL DELIVERY CONTRACTS.

6. FOR REALIZATION OF PROJECTED TRIANGULAR GAS DEAL, IRAN WILL CONSTRUCT NEW 1,300 KM PIPELINE CONNECTING ITS GAS FIELDS IN THE SOUTH OF THE COUNTRY WITH A RUSSIAN TRANSPORT FACILITY STARTING NEAR THE CITY OF ASTARA.

7. THE USSR WILL USE THE IRANIAN GAS IN ITS SOUTHERN REPUBLICS AND IN TURN WILL SUPPLY GAS TO CONSORTIUM MEMBERS FROM OWN GAS FIELDS LOCATED IN WESTERN PART OF THE UKRAINE. BUCHANAN

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